

POLICY MANUAL

Subject: Critical Labs, Results, Values, and Reporting **Effective Date:** 12/5/90

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Approved By: William C Anderson
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Review Dates: 4/96, 07/08 DT, 1/10 NC
02/11 NC, 04/12 NC, 03/13 NC, 2/14 NC

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01/03 RS, 12/06 JH; 02/09 NC, 3/15 NC

POLICY: In order to ensure that information critical to quality patient care is accessible to the physician, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) has defined and established **critical tests** as well as timeframes for collection, reporting, and notification of the physician of the results of these tests. Because Cumberland Heights is a residential addiction treatment center, there are only two tests that have been defined as critical. They are:

- a) HCG-dipstick testing is used for preliminary results with stat serum HCG for confirmation of positive dipstick result; and
- b) INR, if applicable, which is ordered as a stat test.

The time between ordering of a critical test and the actual reporting of these results to the physician should be no longer than six hours. This result is called by the contract lab vendor's personnel directly to the nursing supervisor who notifies the physician within one hour.

The **critical results and values for routine laboratory** testing performed by Cumberland Heights have also been defined by the contract vendor and approved by the Chief Medical Officer. In addition, the CMO has defined the acceptable timeframes for the return and notification of critically abnormal routine lab values and results. Routine lab results should be returned and received by the physician within 72 hours; critically abnormal routine lab results should be returned and received by the physician within 36 hours. Critically abnormal routine lab results are called by the contract lab vendor's personnel directly to the nursing supervisor who notifies the physician within one hour.

These standards are reviewed annually by the CMO.

PROCEDURE:

1. The time between the physician's ordering of a critical test as defined above and the actual reporting of these results to the physician should be no longer than six hours. This result is called by the contract lab vendor's personnel directly to the nursing supervisor on duty. The nursing supervisor is then responsible for notifying the physician.